



## Idaho's animal education

Lisa M. Collard • Our Towns

Meridian Future Farmers of America held their second Agriculture Expo, a three-day extravaganza, for elementary students in the Meridian School District.

FFA members met with 120 classes and about 3,000 students at Meridian High School last week. The event is designed to teach kids where their food and fiber comes from and help them appreciate Idaho's agricultural heritage and industry.

**1:** Peregrine Elementary first-graders **Mikayla Wilde** and **Alijah Gray-Devers** react to learning that a fast-food hamburger starts out as a big black cow.

**2:** Chief Joseph Elementary volunteer **Verna Wood** helps warm up **Jessica Watson** and **Rebecca Chapman** during their early October morning excursion.

**3:** Peregrine first-grader **Morgan Murphy** reacts as he learns about the slimy, smelly mucus coating a rainbow trout lives with.

**4:** Six-year-old Peregrine Elementary student **Shannon Nielsen** pets an American Fuzz Lop named **Peanut Butter**. "I have two bunnies at home," says Nielsen, "Snow-Ball and Odd-Ball."

**5:** Meridian High's **Sara Malaise**, 17, taught thousands of students how much milk a Holstein cow gives (5 to 8 gallons per day) and other dairy facts during the three day Agriculture Expo.

**6:** Meridian High School FFA member **Kirk Tewalt** talks a second grade class from Peregrine through how a sweater gets made, from sheep to store.

At [IdahoStatesman.com/OurTowns](http://IdahoStatesman.com/OurTowns)  
Link to more photos from the  
Meridian FFA Agriculture Expo.

